

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of forming a structured web with a paper machine, comprising the steps of:

providing a fiber slurry through a headbox to a nip formed by a structured fabric and a forming fabric; ~~and~~

collecting fibers from said fiber slurry predominately in a plurality of valleys of said structured fabric; and

dewatering in a forming area of the paper machine said fiber slurry through said forming fabric and not through said structured fabric.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said forming fabric has a zonally different fabric permeability.

4. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said structured fabric includes a plurality of peaks each of said peaks associated with at least one of said plurality of valleys.

5. (original) The method of claim 4, wherein said fiber slurry substantially covers a portion of a surface of said structured fabric including at least one of said plurality of valleys and at least one adjacent peak.

6. (original) The method of claim 5, wherein said fiber slurry becomes the structured web by way of said collecting step.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the structured web has a pillow thickness associated with the structured web formed in said valleys, the structured web having a top surface thickness associated with the structured web formed on said peaks, said pillow thickness being one of equal to and greater than said top surface thickness.

8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the structured web has a pillow basis weight associated with the structured web formed in said valleys, the structured web having a top surface basis weight associated with the structured web formed on said peaks, said pillow basis weight being one of equal to and greater than said top surface basis weight.

9. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
removing said forming fabric from the structured web;
contacting the structured web with a dewatering fabric; and
applying pressure to the structured web through said dewatering fabric.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of applying a negative air pressure against a portion of a surface of said dewatering fabric thereby removing moisture from the structured web through said dewatering fabric.

11. (original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the steps of:
transferring the structured web to a Yankee dryer at a transfer point; and
retaining the structured web with said structured fabric until reaching said transfer point.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the structured web remains on said structured fabric until said transfer point thereby ensuring that pillow areas of the structured web formed in said valleys have a higher basis weight than the rest of the structured web and said pillow areas stay impressed.

13. (original) A structured fibrous web, comprising:
a plurality of pillow portions each having a first basis weight property; and
a plurality of connection portions each having a second basis weight property, each of said connection portions connecting at least two of said plurality of pillow portions, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight.

14. (original) The structured fibrous web of claim 13, wherein said plurality of pillow portions have a first thickness and said plurality of connection portions have a second thickness, said first thickness greater than said second thickness.

15. (currently amended) A method of forming a structured web in a papermaking machine, comprising the steps of:

supplying a fiber slurry to a nip, said nip formed by a structured fabric and a forming fabric;

dewatering in a forming area of the paper machine said fiber slurry through said forming fabric and not through said structured fabric, thereby creating the web; and

retaining the web with said structured fabric through at least one dewatering process.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of transferring the web from said structured fabric to a Yankee dryer.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein said structured fabric includes peaks and valleys.

18. (original) The method of claim 17, wherein said valleys form pillows in the web and said peaks form pressing points in the web.

19. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said pillows have a first thickness and said pressing points have a second thickness, said first thickness greater than said second thickness.

20. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said pillows have a first basis weight and said pressing points have a second basis weight, said first basis weight greater than said second basis weight.

21. (original) The method of claim 18, wherein said pillows have a first moisture content and said pressing points have a second moisture content, said first moisture content greater than said second moisture content prior to a drying process.

22-62. (withdrawn)

63. (original) A method of forming a structured web with a Twin Wire paper machine, comprising the steps of:

providing a fiber slurry to a nip formed by a first structured fabric and a forming fabric;

dewatering said fiber slurry through said forming fabric and not through said structured fabric, thereby forming the structured web; and

transferring the structured web to a second structured fabric.

64. (original) The method of claim 63, wherein said first structured fabric has a first coarseness and said second structured fabric has a second coarseness, said second coarseness being one of greater than and equal to said first coarseness.